

Following By Faith

"Pleasing God", Part 2 of 6
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"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Hebrews 11:6, NIV)

The Two Kinds Of Faith That Please God

I) SAVING FAITH: "I BELIEVE THAT ____ FAITH ALONE ____ IN ____ JESUS ALONE ____ IS MY ONLY HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE."

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.' Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18-24, NIV)

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (Romans 1:16-17, NIV)

***The big question: Have you ever ____ RECEIVED ____ saving faith?**

II) SANCTIFYING FAITH: "I BELIEVE THE ____ SAME FAITH ____ THAT MAKES ME A CHRISTIAN ____ HELPS ME GROW AS ONE ____."

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness." (Colossians 2:6-7, NIV)

How To Keep Following God In Faith

(from the apostle Paul)

1) Start each day ____ DECIDING TO BE JOYFUL IN THE LORD ____.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4, NIV)

2) Spend each day ____ READING THE BIBLE TO BUILD YOUR FAITH ____.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, ESV)

3) Spend time with ____ ROLE MODELS WHO BUILD YOUR FAITH ____.

"I long to see you... that you and I may be mutually encouraged by your faith." (Romans 1:12, NIV)

4) Develop incurable ____ CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S ULTIMATE PLAN ____.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ..." (2 Corinthians 2:14, NIV)

Jesus: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8b, NIV)